

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, immediately following the title "IMPROVING POLYNUCLEOTIDE LIGATION REACTIONS," please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a U.S. National Phase Application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371 of International Application No. PCT/GB2005/000218, which was filed January 21, 2005, claiming benefit of priority of Great Britain Patent Application No. 0401524.4, which was filed January 23, 2004, and U.S. Patent Application No. 60/560,321, which was filed April 6, 2004. The entire disclosure of each of the foregoing applications is incorporated herein by reference.

Page 20, immediately after claim 33, please insert a new page containing the following abstract of the application:

ABSTRACT

The method of the invention is useful in quantifying the absolute or relative number of unique molecules present in a sample after carrying out an analysis procedure on the sample, and comprises the steps of: (i) attaching a unique molecular tag to substantially all of the molecules in the sample; (ii) carrying out the analysis procedure using the molecules of the sample; and (iii) on the basis of the molecular tags determining the absolute or relative number of unique molecules present in the original sample which underwent the analysis procedure.